

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed April 20, 2007, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

By means of the present amendment, the current Abstract has been deleted and substituted with the enclosed New Abstract which better conforms to U.S. practice. Further, the specification has been amended for better conformance to U.S. practice and the drawings, as well as to correct certain informalities.

By means of the present amendment, claims 1-18 have been amended to correct certain informalities noted upon review and to better conform to U.S. practice, such as changing "characterized in that" to --wherein--. Further amendments include changing "A" to -The-- at the beginning of the dependent claims. Claims 1-18 were not amended in order to address issues of patentability and Applicant respectfully reserves all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that FIGs 1A-1B

should be labeled "Conventional". In response, FIGs 1A-1B have been labeled "Prior Art". Further, reference numeral 19 has been included in FIG 1B, in conformance with the specification, such as page 6, line 33. FIG 12 has been amended to change reference S_R to S_H , in conformance with the specification, such as page 15, lines 22 and 26, for example. In addition, reference numeral 134 has been added to FIG 14 in conformance with the specification, such as page 17, line 7, and page 18, line 18, for example.

Replacement sheets including FIGs 1B, 12 and 14 are enclosed. Further, annotated drawing sheets with marked-ups showing the changes to FIGs 1B, 12 and 14 are also enclosed for convenience. Applicant respectfully requests approval of the enclosed proposed drawing changes.

In the Office Action, claims 7 and 13-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as allegedly indefinite. Without agreeing with the Examiner, and in the interest of advancing prosecution, claims 7 and 13-18 have been amended to remove the alleged informality noted by the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 7 and 13-18 has been overcome and an indication as such is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 4-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as allegedly anticipated by WO 02/37411 (Liess). Further, claims 2-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Liess in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,525,677 (Printzis). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-20 are patentable over Liess and Printzis for at least the following reasons.

Liess is directed to an optical input device that includes a laser diode 3 and a photodiode 4 shown in FIGs 5A-5B. Two mirrors 21, 22 are provided between the photodiode 4 and finger 15.

It is respectfully submitted that Liess does not teach or suggest the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claims 19-20 which, amongst other patentable elements, requires (illustrative emphasis provided):

wherein a path of the measuring beam from the diode laser to the window extends through a light guide of the optical keyboard, said light path including at least three mirrors.

A light path with three mirrors from a diode laser to a window is nowhere taught or suggested in Liess. Printzis is cited in

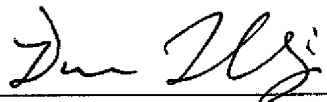
rejecting dependent claims to allegedly show other features and does not remedy the deficiencies in Liess.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that independent claim 1 and 19-20 be allowed. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-18 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claim 1 as well as their individually patentable elements.

In addition, Applicant denies any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicant reserves the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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Enclosure: Replacement drawing sheets (2 sheets including FIGs 1B,
12 and 14)
Annotated drawing sheets (2 sheets including FIGs 1B,
12 and 14)
New Abstract

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